

WALNUT VALLEY WATER DISTRICT



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June 21, 2005

Mr. Paul Dabbs, Chief
Water Resources Evaluation Section
Statewide Water Planning Branch
California Department of Water Resources
Post Office Bo 942836
Sacramento, California 94236-0001

Dear Mr. Dabbs:

Re: California Water Plan/Bulletin-160

This District supports the California Water Plan's (Plan) new emphasis on identifying regional water issues and promoting integrated regional water management and would like to call your attention to the Association of California Water Agencies' (ACWA) publication, "No Time to Waste: A Blueprint for California Water" (Blueprint) as it relates to the Public Review Draft of the California Water Plan.

Both the Plan and the Blueprint have a similar clear-eyed objective view of the state of California water, regional accomplishments and needs are recognized, and a variety of solutions and measures are identified.

However, the Plan needs to more clearly emphasize a proactive state response to seemingly significant emerging threats to our water supply and system. The Plan also needs to strengthen its commitment to rebuilding and enhancing the state's backbone water system infrastructure as called for in Specifically, the state must develop new surface and groundwater storage now for statewide benefit, and the state must facilitate regional and local projects to enhance water reliability.

Although the Plan correctly identifies the need for increased water conservation and reuse in all sectors, this is clearly not enough to ensure a secure water future for our growing and dynamic state. The Plan does not focus enough specific attention to hard realities facing the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and our water system. There is not enough emphasis on the reality that the Delta is the essential, yet vulnerable, crux of the state's backbone water system. There is not enough recognition that the Delta's physical processes (oxidizing soil, decreasing levee stability significant earthquake threat, and increasing sea level), and its ecological processes (fish population indicators, invasive species impacts) demand a focused, immediate, and unprecedented response.

The Blueprint was developed with input from public water agencies throughout the state to serve as a roadmap for state and federal leaders to ensure California has the water system it will need. It contains 12 recommendations that include a diverse mix of actions that would improve the existing water conveyance system in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta; evaluate long-term threats to Delta levees and pursue actions to reduce risks to the state's water supply and environment; develop additional groundwater and surface water storage; and support and fund local efforts to expand recycled water use, water use efficiency and desalination of seawater and brackish groundwater. It is essential that the Plan embrace ACWA's call for a high-level, gubernatorial appointed commission to examine and develop an immediate and comprehensive response to the Bay-Delta situation.

If you have not had an opportunity to review the Blueprint, it and related summary materials can be found on <http://www.acwa.com/issues/blueprint>.

Very truly yours,

WALNUT VALLEY WATER DISTRICT



EDWIN M. HILDEN
President
Board of Directors

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